

### **REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated June 17, 2005. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 18-21 will remain pending in this application. The changes to the claims are supported by the specification and original claims. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's express indication that claim 20 is allowed. Applicants also acknowledge that Examiner's indication that claims 18 and 19 contain allowable subject matter. While these two claims are objected to, the Examiner indicated they would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 18 has been amended as suggested and claim 17 has been canceled. Hence, the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is moot and claim 18 is considered to be in condition for allowance. Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and is thus also considered to be in condition for allowance.

The sole remaining issue concerns the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as purportedly indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action asserts employing the terminology "means of" without reciting any corresponding function renders the claim indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended claim 21 by removing the terminology "means of." Hence, this rejection is overcome and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding objection and rejections in this case, thereby placing the

application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any other fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033082.098.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033082.098.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By:



Michael A. Makuch, Reg. No. 32,263  
1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Telephone: (202)263-4300  
Facsimile: (202) 263-4329

Dated: September 14, 2005